

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N.A.
TAGS: SHUM, SP, PINT, SP
SUBJECT: POLITICAL MISCELLANY: DEATH OF CARABANCHEL
PRISONER BRINGS ADMINISTRATIVE/JUDICIAL ACTION AGAINST
PRISON OFFICIALS; DECISION ON CONFIRMATION OF ELS JOGLARS
VERDICT EXPECTED TODAY.

1. SPAIN'S PENAL INSTITUTIONS ARE ONCE AGAIN IN THE HEAD-
LINES, WITH THE DEATH ON MARCH 13 OF AGUSTIN RUEDA SIERRA,
AN INMATE IN MADRID'S CARABANCHEL PRISON (MADRID 2862).
LAWYERS AND OTHER PRISONERS QUICKLY CHARGED THAT RUEDA'S
DEATH HAD RESULTED FROM BEATINGS HE HAD RECEIVED AT THE
HANDS OF PRISON GUARDS WHO WERE INTERROGATING HIM ABOUT
HIS PARTICIPATION IN DIGGING AN ESCAPE TUNNEL. SEVEN
OTHER PRISONERS REPORTEDLY ALSO WERE BEATEN DURING SIMILAR
INTERROGATIONS.

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2. THE JUSTICE MINISTRY'S DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR PRISONS
ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY THAT IT WAS INITIATING AN INVESTI-
GATION OF THE INCIDENT, AND BOTH JUSTICE MINISTER LAVILLA
AND PRISONS DIRECTOR GENERAL HADDAD REPORTEDLY STATED THAT
THEY FULLY INTENDED TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE MATTER.
AFTER TWO DAYS OF INVESTIGATIONS, THE MINISTRY ON MARCH 16

ISSUED AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT WHICH REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT RUEDA'S DEATH WAS CAUSED BY A BEATING. THE COMMUNIQUE FURTHER STATES THAT THE DIRECTOR, ONE SUB-DIRECTOR AND ANOTHER SENIOR OFFICIAL OF CARABANCHEL PRISON HAVE BEEN FIRED AND TEN OTHER PRISON OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED. THIS ACTION, THE STATEMENT CONTINUES, IS INDEPENDENT OF THE CONTINUING ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION OF THE MATTER AND OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN INITIATED IN THE CASE.

3. THE DEATH OF RUEDA, A MEMBER OF THE ANARCHO-SYNDICAL NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CNT), HAS PREDICTABLY BROUGHT DENUNCIATION FROM A NUMBER OF POLITICAL GROUPINGS, GENERALLY OF THE LEFT AND FAR-LEFT, AND THREATS OF DEMONSTRATIONS. THERE REPORTEDLY ALSO HAVE BEEN THREATS BY CARABANCHEL PRISONERS OF THEIR OWN DEMONSTRATIONS IF THOSE PRISON OFFICIALS ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RUEDA'S DEATH WERE NOT BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. ALTHOUGH THE JUSTICE MINISTRY'S QUICK ACTION IN THIS CASE APPEARS TO HAVE UNDERCUT ATTEMPTS TO MOBILIZE PROTEST ACTIVITY, MANIFESTATIONS IN CARABANCHEL AND OTHER PRISONS, AS WELL AS SOME STREET DEMONSTRATIONS, REMAIN A REAL POSSIBILITY.

4. ON ANOTHER, THOUGH UNRELATED, HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, THE DEFENSE LAWYERS FOR THE FOUR "ELS JOGLARS" MIME TROUPE DEFENDANTS WHO WERE RECENTLY SENTENCED TO TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YEARS IN PRISON (MADRID 2542) HAVE BEEN CONVOKED TODAY BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN BARCELONA TO HEAR CAPTAIN GENERAL COLOMA GALLEGOS' DECISION ON CONFIRMATION OF THE SENTENCES. THE DEFENSE LAWYERS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN BUOYED SOMEWHAT BY THE DELAY IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF COLOMA'S DECISION, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION THAT COLOMA INTENDS TO DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN CONFIRM THE SENTENCES. MEANWHILE, THERE HAVE BEEN PERIODIC DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE ELS JOGLARS DEFENDANTS IN BOTH BARCELONA AND MADRID, AND A LARGE MANIFESTATION REPORTEDLY IS PLANNED FOR MARCH 17 IN BARCELONA'S SPORTS PALACE. STABLER

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